

# Briefly Told

Beggars in Moscow no longer accept money. Bread is more precious than the finest gold.

Belgium, more than four years under the heel of Germany, has resumed business with the enemy.

A committee-made standard of living for government clerks allows for one suit of underwear a year, one belt every three years, and one suit pressed four times a year.

Free Masonry is making record progress in China. In Japan, where no secret societies are permitted, many Japanese are Masons, without the lodge.

"Temperance drinks" now being furnished in England are of such execrable quality that they are suspected of being made so by the "wet" interests in order to help defeat the "drys" in the coming election.

Here is a close-up, hardly the sort retailed to us by the American press:

PARIS, THURSDAY.

M. Clemenceau began his speech at the tribune of the Chamber today at half-past three. The Prime Minister appeared to be tired. His voice was low. He spoke by fits and starts, and not in a continuous manner. In the course of his speech M. Clemenceau traced the history of the labors of the Peace Conference. In the beginning, he said, 20 delegates took part in the Conference, but they all made such fine speeches that a fortnight later nothing had been begun. When the Council was reduced to five delegates work proceeded quickly, and everything was completed in seven months. "When the ratified treaty," proceeded M. Clemenceau, "has entered into force you will see it holds as great a place in history as the entry of Mahmed Bey in Constantinople." These words provoked mirth among all the deputies.

Commenting on Lord French's war book, ex-Premier Asquith says: "To have a bad memory is a misfortune, not a crime, but people who have bad memories should not attempt to write their own—or other people's—lives."

The words "bad," "band," "chin" and "jungle" are identical in form and meaning in English and Kurdish. Similarities abound as—egg—hek; be—bu; better—petter; coal—khal; cough—cof; corner—corna; dark—tark; shiver—shiwer; thunder—dunder.

Reports are current that the Peace Conference has considered intrusting the protection of Palestine to the King of Italy in recognition of his title "King of Jerusalem." The Holy See is said to favor this plan.

Jack London's widow is engaged on his biography.

The Japanese Government, through its treasury department, has floated what is known as Children's Loan, which is to be subscribed only by children. Bonds are issued on the installment plan, redeemable after 50 months, with interest.

The National Woman Suffrage Association is authority for the statement that there are approximately 100,000,000 women voters in the world today.

America has purchased in London in the past nine months, \$10,000,000 in furs, \$27,000,000 in precious gems, \$4,000,000 for articles of art, and \$14,000,000 in raw rubber, tremendous increases over the previous period.

India has one hundred million more cattle than the United States, ranking first in the world.

California produces 98 per cent of all the almonds grown in America.

A remarkable instance of co-operation: 275 farmers from Great Falls, Minn., went to assist the farmers of Cheyenne County, Neb., in harvesting the wheat crop. Bankers advanced the \$6,500 needed for transportation.

The high cost of living still remains a topic of talk, but is not to any appreciable extent a subject of legislation.

"That fine and rare thing about American manhood—young and old—the thing that other lands cannot show the likes of, the thing that the army and consorting with foreigners was bad for, and smirched—was simply American manhood's complete subjection to American womanhood."—Unpartizan Review.

The commercial apple crop of the United States for 1919 is estimated at 23,177,000 barrels, a decrease of one million barrels from last year.

The unhappy Princess Yolanda of Italy is simple and democratic in her ways. She is quoted as saying, "I wish I could have a little home all my own, to take care of, wouldn't it be fine!" She is now nineteen years of age.

Soldiers' letters, the most authentic and living of all war records, will be collected and preserved by the French Government.

The Treasurer of Australia will float a loan in the United States.

A Confession. Senator Edge, of New Jersey: "My only object was to save the time of the Senate."

The Vice President: "The Senate is not a time-saving institution."

Failure to marry is the greatest sin a Mohammedan girl can commit, and is a mark of disgrace upon her family. Yet girls are never permitted to meet a man, and never see the man they are to marry.

"Once everything was 'Verboten'; today everything is yours." This is a popular phrase in Alsace-Lorraine during these after-the-war days.

One by one the churches in Liverpool's central section are being torn down. London still maintains fifty central churches, though the congregations are much diminished.

"America will appreciate the man of affairs, who studies birds and their ways, who feeds the squirrels as they come to his window, and whose favorite pastime is fishing in Scottish rivers," said a London paper regarding Lord Grey.

The increased numbers of grizzly bears in the Canadian Rockies this year have made camping life precarious for many visitors.

The Italian Government is piping steam from volcanoes to heat towns unable to obtain coal.

A London judge says that late hours effect a subtle change in people's characters. Crime occurs most frequently between two and six a. m.

There are more than sixty distinctly different varieties of bananas. Only two kinds are well known outside their native places.

The former German liner Leviathan transported 185,000 Americans overseas.

The weight of the blood circulating in the average human body is twenty-eight pounds.

"The next time your horse balks, try putting a little dust, or sand, from the wayside on his tongue. It is quite effective in getting his mind away from his determination not to move."—Our Dumb Animals.

President Carranza has been instrumental in changing the most fashionable bull-ring in Mexico City into a home for grand opera. He is against bull-fighting.

Napoleon's horse always behaved differently with Napoleon on its back. Napoleon was convinced that the animal had a sense of its proud position at the head and center of things when it carried him, and was humiliated when a groom rode it.

The new hall of the London County Council is being lined with marble from the quarries of Mt. Pentelikon, Greece, which supplied material for the Acropolis.

Poland, Roumania, and Slavonia are limiting estates to a maximum size of 450 acres.

The Treaty of Peace, including the League of Nations, has been approved by both Chambers of the British Parliament and by Canada, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and Australia.

The Cutlers' Feast is still held annually in Sheffield, England, the fountainhead of cutlery. The feast originated in 1624 "for the good order and government of the makers of knives, sickles, shears, scissors and other cutlery ware."

High-heeled shoes were first worn by men. In the 18th century, real "swells" wore heels six inches high.

The reason the three-cornered military hat went out of fashion is this: When hand-grenades and bombs came into fashion at the beginning of the 18th century, the hat corners interfered with the overarm swing with which the grenade was thrown.

An English review of "The Groper," a novel by Henry G. Aikman, goes on to say: "The hero is an ambitious man who seeks his fortunes in Detroit. His adventures introduce us first to the real estate business and as sordid a set of failures and scoundrels as our civilization can offer . . . The society of Detroit, as it is presented to us, is deplorable."

The states now having anti-tipping laws are South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Georgia.

A medical opinion. "May we not make a human being almost immortal by engrafting into him at recurring intervals some organs from a youth of the human or primate group of animals?" "Theoretically, yes. But practically, no." "Why not?" "An old man has no young trunk to graft upon. He begins to age in his central organs of nutrition, and with an old stomach and an old liver I can see no rational ground for believing that the implanting of a new organ will have any real permanent effect upon his vitality or can rejuvenate him."

In Japan they "mug" a man as soon as he is arrested, regardless of the theory that every man is to be considered innocent until proved guilty.

Bethmann-Hollweg has joined the post-mortem society of the newspaper syndicates. His contribution is called "Reflections on the Great War."

The Society of Swiss Hotel Keepers has voted to raise their tariffs 20 per cent, but the dispatches neglect to say which 20 this is, the first or the fifth.

An Anglo-American society, the purpose of which is to render more cordial the relations between Englishmen and Americans, has been formed abroad.

"An American Tea" is becoming a favorite device with English charity promoters. The "tea" consists principally in the sale of donated goods.

The American child's story, "Little Women," is making its way as a play in the English theater. But in the British version the Professor is no longer German; he is French!

The Strand Theater, London, has had a hapless history. Though only ten years old, an American manager made only failure there and closed it up. Law-suits came. The roof leaked on valuable carpets and upholstery. Tramps roosted in the luxurious boxes. The first Zeppelin raid put holes in it. People were killed at its door. It is now sold to real estate speculators.

The Manchester Guardian's correspondent's wire on arrival at Moscow read: "Find town leading peaceful, ordinary life—perhaps more orderly than London. Organization of country is good and improves constantly, while military organization and spirit astonish one who is accustomed to western stories."

The United States will not appoint an ambassador to Germany. Resumption of our diplomatic relations with that nation will be through a "Charge of Embassy."

Cambridge University is so crowded with students that housing accommodations have failed. A feature of the year is the large number of married undergraduates who have come to complete their studies.

Germany has 20,000 airplanes which may be used both for commercial and military purposes.

Last spring Yale University increased professors' salaries 25 per cent and added \$500 a year to assistant-professorial salaries. Now another advance is proposed by the authorities.

An Atlanta citizen was killed by a speeding ambulance. Two undertakers' wagons, in a competitive race for the body, were held up and the drivers taken to jail for breaking the speed laws.

Before the war there were 340,000 persons possessing government bonds in Great Britain. There are now 20,000,000.

This is the Masonic year 5919; to be accurate, the Year of Light 5919.

A street car employes' strike in Brussels, Belgium, lasted a week.

A psychologist has arranged this scale of descending sanity—cynics, punsters, and lastly, maniacs.

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